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P.O. Box 43,

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THE AUSTRALIAN U.F.O. BULLETIN

Australia U.F.O. Bulletin



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The AUSTRALIAN U.F.O. BULLETIN





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WELCOME:

The Society welcomes reports of unusual Aerial Phenomena and evaluates each report on its own merits and if requested, reports will be held in the strictest confidence. The Society exchanges information with many similar Australian and overseas organisations, as well as scientists, and disseminates to the public, available information on the subject, which includes local, interstate and the latest overseas developments in its quarterly publication "Australian U.F.O. Bulletin," posted to all members. Address all communications to:

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First



Final



Society History

1957

1957

At this point perhaps it may be opportune to present a brief history of the Victorian U.F.O. Research Society.

The earliest U.F.O. group to form in Australia was the "Australian Flying Saucer Bureau" under the direction of Edgar Jarrold and Andrew Tomas, in the early 1950s. At the same time, Fred Stone inaugurated the "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" in Adelaide. After approximately two years the Bureau closed down and was regarded as a branch of the "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" under Andrew Tomas. This shortly broke from Adelaide and became the "Australian U.F.O. Investigation Centre" with Dr. Clifford at its head until 1958, when the Presidency passed to Dr. Lindtner.

The "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society (Victorian Branch)" was formed on the 17th February, 1957 as a branch of the "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" and later that year was re-organised as the "Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society" with Mr. Peter E. Norris L.L.B. as President. In 1968 the name was again altered — this time to the "Victorian U.F.O. Research Society".

During this time, the Society has published various papers and is probably best known for its publication Australian Flying Saucer Review, curtailed in 1972 due to high costs and subsequently superseded by the Australian U.F.O. Bulletin and at one stage sponsored and produced a quarter-hour program on a Melbourne radio station under the heading of "The Truth Behind Flying Saucers".

The Society had held a dispassionate attitude on U.F.O.s, claiming it is a scientific problem deserving closer attention. It has also met regularly in General Meetings and maintains the largest U.F.O. library in the Southern Hemisphere, making books available by post, to members throughout the Commonwealth.

Membership of this Society — which maintains the largest membership of any U.F.O. organisation in the Southern Hemisphere — is open to all who are genuinely interested in the subject.

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The Victorian U.F.O. Research Society

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P.O. Box 43, Moorabbin, Vic. 3189, Australia



EDITORIAL

The advent of the computer has been a very beneficial tool in UFO research as well as other fields of science, private and commercial use.

There are several UFO computer systems being used throughout the world. To keep our members and subscribers up to date, in this edition we publish a summary on Project UNICAT. The sketch shown illustrates the superiority of this system over the sequential files making retrieval of information more easily available.

Paul Norman, Australian representative for UNICAT, has been assisting Dr. Willy Smith to sort out releable cases from Australia which contain worthwhile data base material.

The sketch shown is made up of seven parameters showing that out of 191 reports of hovering UFOs, 46 demonstrated anomalous acceleration and 97 of the reported UFOs were silent. 15 reports show all three characteristics etc,

UNICAT computer printout on the Frederick Valentich encounter is published as another example of UNICAT performance. A unique system indeed.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year!

This being our first Bulletin for the year, VUFORS Committee wishes members a Safe, Healthy and Prosperous 1987 and extends thanks for your continued support through a very "quiet" period of U.F.O. activity.

I must take this opportunity too, of thanking and congratulating the committee on their excellent work during the year.

For many years VUFORS "ran off" our own publications on various types of duplicating machines. After searching out material, cutting stencils and after getting into an awful mess with

CONT... FROM EDITORIAL

the duplicator, there followed an afternoon - and evening for some - of going round and round a table collating, stapling and folding, counting and packing for postage.

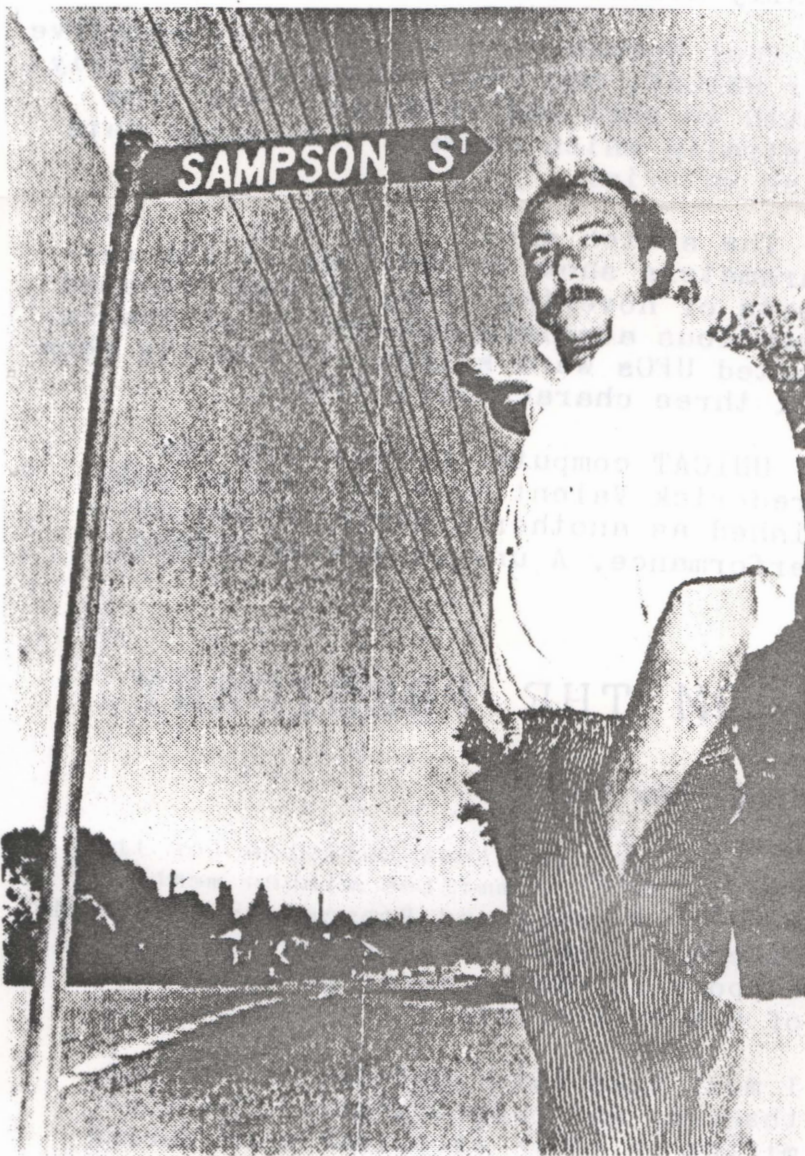
Now, thanks to John Auchettl and Steve Partridge, we have our Bulletins printed for us.

Considering that Society work is voluntary, and all committee members have other occupations, I believe they do a great job in keeping the Society going when so many, home and abroad, have folded.

We have on hand a number of T Shirts and Windcheaters which we are anxious to clear before considering any further marketing projects.

The T Shirts are priced at \$7.50 plus \$1.00 postage. We have two (2) sized 26", two (2) sized 28" one (1) sized 30", two (2) sized 34" and one (1) sized 42".

The Windcheaters are priced \$13.00 plus \$1.00 postage for sizes 28", 30" and 32", and \$15.75 plus \$1.00 postage for sizes 34" and 36". There is only one of each size in the Windcheaters, so it will be first in best dressed.



31.1.1987 CENTRAL WESTERN, ORANGE,
N.S.W.

UFO comes out of the saucepan into the the skies

By SANDRA ROBERTS

UFO researchers are baffled by an Orange man's sighting of an object which came bursting out of the Saucepan star formation above the city yesterday morning then zoomed off again.

Mr Peter Langham, 33, claimed he'd never seen anything like the object which stopped him in his tracks as he walked down Sampson St at 3am yesterday.

It had three large green lights in the shape of a boomerang then on either side of the craft was a row of smaller white lights, he said.

"I looked up at the Saucepan. I don't even know why I looked. Then out of the formation it came.

"It came down lower and lower. I couldn't believe it, it was so prominent. At first I thought it was a bunch of stars then it zoomed off to the west.

"I've never seen anything like it before. I was left standing there."

Mr Langham said he watched the object for about 30 seconds before it disappeared.

He had been walking to his parents' home at the southern end of Sampson St after having dinner and chatting with some friends. He said he had not been drinking.

Haunted by the sighting, Mr Langham checked several times during the night to see whether the UFO had returned.

Mr Langham was probably the only person who saw the object as no other sightings have been reported to Orange police or observed by officers at the Department of Aviation tower on Mt Canobolas or at the CSIRO radio telescope at Parkes.

Orange UFO researcher Mr Terry Bishop said yesterday the sighting seemed a bit strange and that he'd never heard of anything like it before.

He said it did not fit the description of any meteor or satellite which would have passed over Orange yesterday morning.

"UFOs are called that because little is known about them. We're trying to find out whether their causes could be natural.

"It's possible they could be people coming through from another dimension.

say they don't exist. We look at things scientifically.

"We believe there has to be some other life

because of the mass of the universe and because there are so many other planets and suns out there.

"Probably some are in an advanced human form but others might be at the caveman stage or they could be future relatives coming back in time."

UNICAT PROJECT

Dr. Willy Smith

CUFOS-MUFON

1200 MURCOTT COURT
LONGWOOD, FL 32779 U.S.A.
305-714-4084

Dr. J. Allen Hynek
Dr. Willy Smith

DEFINITION

UNICAT is a sophisticated data base embodying information on UFO sightings, conceived and implemented according to the following directives:

(a) The data base contains only high-quality cases, where IFDs and questionable material have been eliminated as much as possible. The data base will be universal (hence the name: Universal Catalog) i.e., efforts will be made to include cases from as many countries as feasible.

(b) The data base will be accessible to all those investigators that have actively cooperated in its creation. It will be also accessible to others and to the general public for a nominal charge.

(c) UNICAT is essentially different from other computerized listings of UFO sightings inasmuch as information on a given case will be continuously added if available. Most computer catalogs--including UFOCAT--terminate the input of information as soon as the entry is completed. On the contrary, UNICAT is dynamic, and the software contains several programs for checking the data base integrity and for finding errors, including typing mistakes.

(d) The design of UNICAT is such that it allows the retrieval of information in a very large number of ways, including correlations, sortings and even short narratives containing key words for each individual case. The computer output is immediate, directly readable and DOES NOT require a code book.

(e) A special section will provide the references for each entry in detail.

CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF CASES

The criteria that a case must meet to be entered in UNICAT are naturally rather stringent, and are summarized as follows:

i) At least two witnesses. However, a well investigated case resting on the testimony of a single unimpeachable witness could be occasionally included.

ii) Cases that have been well investigated by known ufologists, preferably those that have been published in the literature in any language.

iii) Unpublished cases, or cases investigated by not so well known researchers will be acceptable only if there is a written report accessible to the organizers of UNICAT, and if the initial investigators are willing to provide additional information if requested.

iv) The case should contain at least 10 of the parameters or characteristics specified by Dr. Hynek's list. We expect this list to change with time as cases are added to the data base and the truly significant parameters become evident.

The overall purpose of UNICAT, besides providing a reliable research tool for all investigators, is to prove by a direct application of the scientific method that UFOs are indeed a new phenomenon, deserving the attention of established science. The progress in the precise determination of the pertinent parameters will lead to a model, or profile, for the UFO phenomenon, furnishing not only an operational definition of it, but also determining the basic paradigm that any science must possess.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

The advantages of UNICAT over existing attempts to computerize UFO data is that UNICAT makes use of database software which is customized for the application. All the other computer catalogs to our knowledge are sequential files which make input and retrieval a long and tedious process.

The disadvantage of using sequential files to process information is that the input must be done using an editor (or, worse, cards). Care must be taken to line up the fields and place entries in the proper columns.

Sequential files in which the input is a stream of characters symbolizing the different parameters is difficult to analyze. In order to process it in an organized fashion, programs must be written, one for each type of output desired.

For instance, a printout of the sequential catalog will not show at first glance how many cases occurred within the timeframe of 10 P.M. and midnight. A program must be written to show this. However, when you ask another question such as how many cases left physical traces, another program must be written... and another and another. Each individual query requires its own program, which may not be difficult to write, but it is time consuming. It is no wonder that with such a cumbersome process UFO investigators have not effectively used the computer in UFO research.

With UNICAT, things are completely different. To start with, all the information pertaining to a particular case is stored in an entry, or record, distributed into many fields. The software allows you to name and define the fields at will. The content of each field can be numeric (like the time of the day) or alphanumeric (place where the sighting occurred) or even logical. Our present record format has near 240 fields. Try typing in a string of 240 characters, let alone fields, going the sequential route! The database we are using allows up to about 250 fields, and a maximum of about 60,000 characters per record.

- - - - -

After the fields are defined, the information is easily entered, as the program prompts for the value of each field, and there are no worries as to whether the information is properly placed. Fields may also be left blank if no information is available. But the most important feature is the flexibility of the database software which allows the user to change the definition of a field, its value for a particular record, or to add new fields, delete fields, delete entire records, or create a new file by copying selected records to a new database.

Once the information is entered, the database may be queried for any combination of fields with simple English-like commands. To give a few examples of recent queries: i) all the Spanish cases ordered by time of day; ii) all the cases with entities, showing the corresponding characteristic parameters; or iii) all cases showing the impossible combination of a tremendous speed (parameter TS) and hovering (HV), for daylight sightings; or iv) all cases for 1967 showing the parameters related to UFO intelligence.

Of course, not all of the information stored for a specific case can be printed out on a single line as in sequential files, but using a format of 140 columns (of which 132 are available for data) approximately 40 fields, including those that define the case, will fit across the page. Clearly that is more than what can be assimilated at a single reading anyway, and the experience acquired since PHASE ONE became operational indicates that rather than obtain all of the parameters for a given case, the users request specifics that fit well within the above limits.

The database has a built-in sort, and even counts the number of records retrieved. Thus, cases can be ordered in different ways, such as chronologically, alphabetically and many others, regardless of how they were entered into the system, or of how they are physically written in the computer memory. Report headings consist of the field names and are automatically produced by the database query language when the English-like commands are input. Titles describing the information to be printed can be written in any language, which will be a convenience for our Latin-American friends and others.

The fields for each record are divided into two types. The first type is mainly intended to identify the case and has descriptive information such as date, time, place, number of witnesses and the quality of the case.

The date is expressed as YYMMDD, without any separating blanks, thus determining an increasing numerical sequence that will greatly help the sorting processes. But more importantly, this will eliminate the uncertainties due to usage, as in the U.S. the date is commonly expressed MM/DD/YY (except for the military, of course); while in England and in Latin America the predominant style is DD/MM/YY. Moreover, we have seen the latter usage in correspondence from America, and not precisely from the military.

The uncertainty with reference to the time of day is considerable, as the witness seldom can give it precisely to the minute; and even if he does so, it is unknown whether or not his watch kept the proper time. It is then illusory and unwarranted to assign a 4 or 6-space field to this parameter as many catalogs, including UFOCAT, do. Any distinction between standard or daylight-saving time is totally unnecessary as the witness, even if he is a qualified astronomer, will invariably report the local time. The military, on the contrary, will always refer to UT, but corrections are easily made when entering the information to the data base. The time of a case will be recorded as the exact preceding hour of a 24 hour clock. For example, an event at 3:40 PM will be entered as occurring at 15 hours. This will provide enough precision for statistical studies, and more importantly, those studies will then be based on a realistic assessment of the information and not on imaginary precision.

The place will be clearly stated by the name of the nearest population center or by the intersection of nearby highways, and complemented by the political division, i.e., the state for the U.S. and many other countries, the province (Spain) or département (France) for others nations. A field of 25 spaces is reserved for this.

The name of the country must be, unfortunately, codified in a two column field. But to make recognition easier, the two letters have

been selected according to the internationally accepted norms for automobile plates.

An important identification parameter is the UFO type, defined by two characters; in this, the Hynek classification is maintained, with two additions: RO = radar only, and C4 = abductions (already established by usage).

A 2-column field is reserved for the number of witnesses, where the appropriate digit is entered if the number is known exactly. If they are marginal witnesses, a "+" sign will be added; and this may be important if there is a principal witness whose testimony is partially supported by others: the entry will be 1+. If there is a large but undetermined number of witnesses, the entry will be "+".

The duration of an incident is important, but in practice is a quantity that is very difficult to determine with a degree of accuracy. A 5-character field is reserved for this information, which will be entered in minutes unless otherwise specified.

Although the selection of cases for inserting in UNICAT has been most stringent, it is clear that not all the cases have the same value, reliability and/or importance. To address this issue, a tentative three letter symbol has been introduced, and the exact meaning and procedure to determine those letters is still under consideration, and will be the subject of a further note. Most of the above information is entered first when creating a new record for the data base.

The second type of field divides the information from the reports into carefully selected characteristic parameters according to the list devised by Dr. Hynek. What is known about a case is thus broken down into basic elements (or bits of information) which characterize it and will allow two things: i) to establish correlations among sightings; and ii), more importantly, by identifying cases containing combinations of parameters that do not correspond to any existing

UNICAT

INTERNATIONAL UFO CONFERENCE - LONDON

Date - Friday 10 to Sunday 12 July 1987

Venue - The London Business School

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technological object or known natural event, will support the contention that the UFO phenomenon is different and new to science.

These basic elements are represented by two-letter anemomics which have been so devised that they are easily remembered once one achieves some basic level of familiarity with the system. For example, AA means anomalous acceleration, HV signifies hovering and IB stands for intelligent behavior. Thus, the need for a codebook is totally eliminated. To facilitate the analysis of the computer output, the characteristic parameters have been divided into 10 categories, each one referring to a specific aspect. Those categories are:

1) BASIC DESCRIPTION	(28)
2) OPTICAL CHARACTERISTICS	(20)
3) DYNAMICS	(46)
4) THE OBSERVERS	(18)
5) UFO INTELLIGENCE	(18)
6) INTERACTION UFO/OBSERVER	(32)
7) INTERACTION UFO/ENVIRONMENT	(20)
8) ENTITIES	(24)
9) PROBATORY ELEMENTS	(11)
10) MISCELLANEOUS	(15)

The present number of parameters is 232, but due to an impending change in the capacity of our system, allowing for a more efficient use of the software, an increase of about 14 parameters is under consideration. Besides, since some of the parameters in use have appeared with frequencies of less than 1/2 %, further refinements of UNICAT might result in the deletion of some of them, as well as in the addition of other characteristics that have been suggested by some of our more active associates. The exact list of the parameters as well as their precise definitions -with appropriate examples- will be the subject of a separate note.

EXPANSION OF THE DATA BASE

The enlargement of the data base is of paramount importance and can be accomplished by any of the following procedures:

(1) Starting from technical reports received from our associates, the applicable parameters will be determined by Dr. Hynek and Dr. Smith.

(2) Our associates identify the pertinent parameters and send us a list as well as a detailed technical report of the case. The parameters are then verified either by Dr. Hynek or Dr. Smith.

(3) For cases for Spanish-speaking countries, Dr. Smith will make a determination of the corresponding parameters and send that list to the original investigator for verification.

(4) A search of the literature will bring to light old cases that fulfill UNICAT requirements. The appropriate list of applicable parameters will be determined from the existing information.

The basic consideration for the inclusion of a new case is that the determination of the parameters must have been verified by at least two persons. Only after this is accomplished will Dr. Smith proceed to actually add a new entry to UNICAT.

CONSULTATIONS

As stated elsewhere, all those participating in the creation of UNICAT will have ready access to the data base. This will be implemented by queries that should be addressed to Dr. Smith, who will proceed to solve them with the help of the sophisticated software available.

This software has been developed specifically for the application, and is extremely flexible. A huge amount of information can be extracted from the data base, including all kinds of correlations and statistics. One thing that UNICAT cannot do is provide all of the information corresponding to a single entry, in the

line/case output format characterizing most UFO catalogs. The information for each entry in the data base requires more than one typewritten page per case, and it is not practical to obtain it except for a particular case of interest.

However, since most of the queries received so far address only a particular aspect of the UFO phenomenon, it will be relatively easy to provide the requested information on a few pages of computer output.

MAYBECAT

Many of the reports submitted for possible inclusion in UNICAT do not meet the necessary stringent requirements, either for lack of sufficient information, or perhaps because the number and/or quality of the witnesses are not satisfactory.

However, with further investigative effort those incidents could turn out to be good cases, or, alternatively, IFOs. With this in mind, instead of totally rejecting uncertain or incomplete reports, we have created a separate catalog, appropriately named MAYBECAT, which will function as a temporary clearing-house.

MAYBECAT is not a sophisticated data base like UNICAT, but just a catalog, listing the essential information allowing the identification of a sighting. It fulfills two roles:

1. As a separate file to maintain cases that potentially could be of value.
2. As a bookkeeping device, to make it easy for us to determine if a case has previously been considered for UNICAT. This has become very necessary in view of the multiplicity of primary sources bringing cases to our attention.

Examples of cases entered in MAYBECAT are those reported by miscellaneous sources which have NOT been investigated. Since copies of MAYBECAT are distributed periodically to our correspondents, we

hope that someone, somewhere, will provide additional information to upgrade the case (to UNICAT) or to identify it as an IFO (for rejection).

THE UNIQUENESS OF UNICAT

What makes UNICAT unique? This is a fair question to ask, and we will try to emphasize here some of the points that make UNICAT so different.

1) Selection. Before a case is accepted for inclusion in UNICAT, it must satisfy some stringent conditions which have been established a priori. Among others we have:

(a) Cases involving multiple witnesses, although high quality single-witness incidents could also be considered under special circumstances.

(b) Cases investigated by well known ufologists, preferably those published in the literature in any language.

(c) Sightings including at least 10 of the characteristic parameters specified on Dr. Hynek's list. At present this list has 232 entries, but it is still open to revisions.

2) Analysis. A careful determination of which parameters apply to a given case is done by the developers. This implies the existence of a rather lengthy written report which allows such identification. Most listings of UFO cases, even if they have a short description (like Vallee's catalog in PASSPORT TO MAGONIA), are lacking in this respect. This breaking down of a case into what we could call "bits of information" is a crucial step if the data base is to reflect faithfully the information available. It is also time consuming, and should be done, in principle, by two different persons.

3) Revision. Unavoidably, errors will creep into the data base, either due to misinformation or simply as typing or logical errors. Hence a continuous revision process is important and will be initiated

in two ways: (a) by those associates who upon receiving information discover errors within their area of expertise and/or interest, and (b) by software specially designed to preserve the integrity of the data base; this software un masks logical contradictions, typographical and other errors, and points out additional corrections to be made.

Because of this continuous revision process, we call UNICAT a "dynamic data base"; and in this respect it is totally different from other computerized catalogs that we have seen, where once a case is entered (mostly in sequential files), no further changes are ever performed. If we faithfully adhere to the above procedures, the caliber and quality of UNICAT will be beyond criticism, and it will withstand the most severe scrutiny of the scientific community.

Our hope is that UNICAT will become a powerful research tool for those interested in the UFO phenomenon. We realize, of course, that it involves a great deal of work; and that to be truly international, it requires the collaboration of all our friends at home and abroad. In view of the responses obtained so far, however, we feel confident that UNICAT is becoming well-known, and that our objectives will be accomplished. (*)

(*) FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, write to:

Dr. Willy Smith
1200 Murcott Ct.
Longwood, FL, 32779
United States.

Record #: PLACE: Bass Strait, Australia COUNTRY: AU
DATE: 781021 ; TIME: 19; WIL: 1+; DURATION: 6 min; UFO TYPE: C2 ; GRADE: IANA B

AA:xx	CH:	ED:	FS:	IV:	MF:xx	NT:xx	FR:	SB:	TD:	VA:
AB:	CI:xx	EF:	FT:	IW:	MG:	OC:	PS:	SC:	TE:	VD:
AC:xx	CL:	EG:	GD:	JA:	MI:	OD:	PT:	SD:	TH:	VI:
AD:	CM:	EH:	GF:	LA:	NI:xx	OF:	FU:	SF:	TN:	VL:xx
AG:	CO:	EL:	GG:	LB:	MM:	OG:	PX:	SG:	TP:	VN:
AH:	CP:	EM:xx	GH:	LC:	MN:	ON:	PY:	SH:	TR:	VS:
AI:	CR:xx	EN:	GP:	LD:	MO:	UF:	PZ:	SI:	TS:xx	VT:
AL:xx	CS:	EO:	GR:	LF:	MP:xx	OS:	RA:	SK:	TT:	WA:xx
AN:	CW:xx	EP:	GS:	LG:	MS:	OU:	RC:	SL:	TU:	WB:
AU:	CX:xx	ER:	HA:	LL:	MT:	OV:	RD:	SM:	TV:	WC:
AW:	CY:	ES:	HE:	LO:	MU:	PA:xx	RE:xx	SO:	TW:	WH:
BA:	DA:	EX:	HI:xx	LP:	MV:	PC:	RG:	SP:	TY:	WI:
BG:	DD:	EY:	HL:	LK:	MW:	PD:	RI:	SR:	UA:xx	WL:
BL:	DE:	FA:xx	HM:	LS:	NA:	PE:	RM:	SS:	UC:	WN:
BM:	DF:	FC:	HV:xx	LU:	NB:	FG:	RN:	ST:	UD:	WO:
BO:	DR:	FD:	HY:	LV:	NC:30	PH:	RO:	SW:xx	UE:	WS:
BV:	DS:	FF:	IA:	LX:xx	NG:	PI:	RP:	SX:	UN:	WT:
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(a) ON WITNESSES

NAMES: Frederick P. Valentich
OCCUPATIONS: pilot

AGES: 20

(b) UFOs AS DESCRIBED BY WITNESSES

SHAPE: "long", "shiny outside"

NOISE: not applicable

(c) OUTSTANDING DETAILS OF SIGHTING

AC: Cessna 182L -- AL: plane @ 4500 ft; UFO 1000 ft above it.

EM: rough idling of engine.

HI: pilot killed, plane never found.

IB: UFO approached plane from different directions, seemed to HV, and orbited above plane when plane did likewise.

ML: bright (IL) like landing lights; later, a green light (LX).

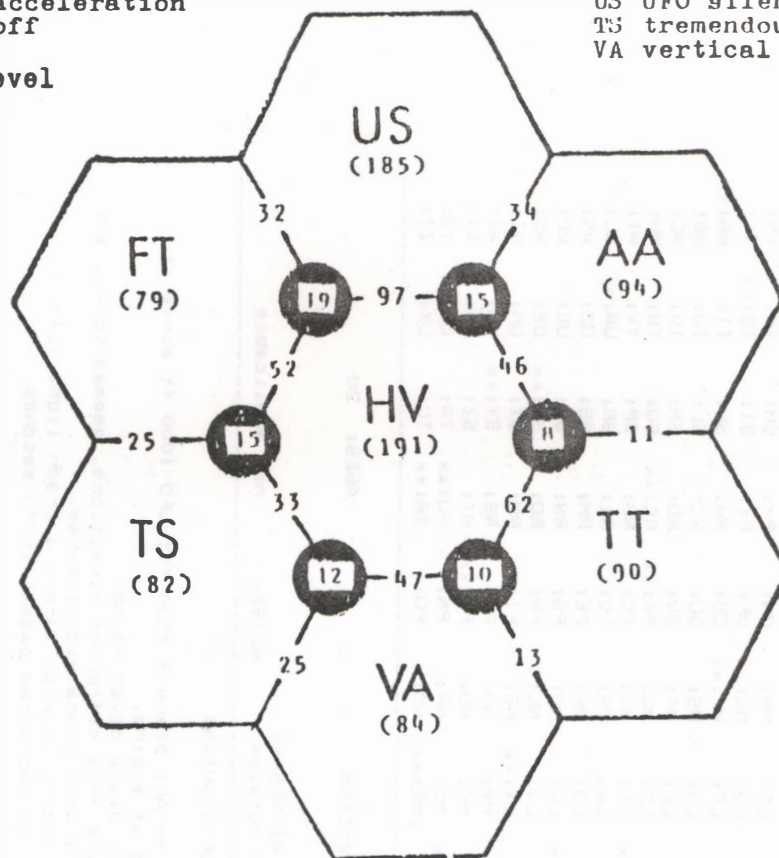
SY: on the outside -- TS: two-three passes in 30 seconds.

Features: (i) 6-min tape recorded by Melbourne airport provides all above details.

(ii) Roy Manifold took some photographs of sunset at Cape Utway showing object coming out of water, 17 m. before passage of F.V.

AA anomalous acceleration
 FT fast take off
 HV hovering
 TT tree top level

US UFO silent
 TS tremendous speed
 VA vertical ascent



AA: anomalous acceleration
 AC: aircraft involved
 AL: altitude low (1000-5000ft)
 CD: (abrupt)change of direction
 CI: cigar shape
 CR: craft (physical)
 CW: clear weather
 CX: complex case
 EM: "electromagnetic" effects
 FA: fast or sudden approach
 HI: human injury
 HV: hovering
 IB: intelligent behavior
 IL: intense light
 LX: green light(s)
 ME: metallic

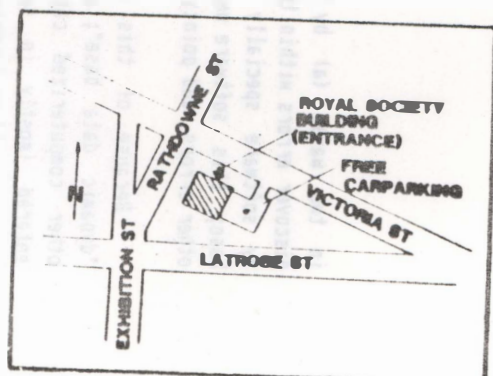
MF: motion: fast
 ML: multiple lights
 MP: motion:"playful"
 NC: number count 30
 NT: "no (air)traffic"(tower)
 PA: paced aircraft
 PM: programmed motion
 RE: open field
 RU: undetected by radar
 SA: sudden appearance
 SW: single witness
 SY: shiny, polished
 UA: UFO aware of witness
 WA: water associated
 TS: tremendous speed
 VL: very large object(100s of ft)

DISCUSSION NIGHT

For your Diary

J U N E	1st	1987	MEETING
S E P T	7th	1987	MEETING
D E C	7th	1987	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TIME : 8:00pm
 WHERE : 'The Royal Society of Victoria'
 Victoria St., Melbourne (SEE MAP)
 COST : \$1.00 donation per person. (for
 supper)



SETI Without Saucers?

By DAVID W. SWIFT
Univ. of Hawaii Dept. of Sociology

NASA should consider taking on as a package popular interest in UFOs and the scientifically sound search for extraterrestrial intelligence because influential laymen still link the two

Scientists searching for extraterrestrial intelligence face many problems. Ironically, one of the most frustrating involves us humans: How can the public and its government representatives be persuaded to pay for the search? Federal funding is needed, yet citizens are in a thrifty mood, challenging expenditures for even the most urgent, down-to-earth projects. Exoteric activities such as searching for extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI) have a difficult time getting money.

SETI scientists clearly do need public support, but in seeking it face a dilemma. Many of the laymen who are enthusiastic about SETI are also interested in such topics as UFOs, telepathy, and Big Foot. Such topics intrigue the public, but they annoy many scientists, particularly those seriously concerned about extraterrestrial intelligence. This friction frustrates both laymen and scientists.

Laymen tend to lump all aerial, celestial phenomena together: flying saucers, "little green men," and ETI are all assumed to be aspects of the same basic thing.

Scientists, in contrast, see a world of difference between UFOs and ETI. They maintain that the former consists of misperceptions or hoaxes, and is merely a lure for charlatans and the ignorant, and most consider ETI a legitimate topic, worthy of scientific investigation. Laymen in turn are puzzled by prominent scientists who advocate SETI but are skeptical of UFO reports. The scientists may be weary of trying to educate laymen, yet they cannot ignore them completely because many citizens interested in UFOs are also interested in SETI.

A recent Gallup poll found that about half of U.S. adults believe intelligent life exists on other planets. Similarly, more than half think UFOs are real. Do these two beliefs go together? Do the individuals who believe there is life elsewhere in the universe also think UFOs are real? The news releases printed in a number of newspapers did not address this question, but statistics in more detailed tabulations (T-1) show that, yes, the two beliefs are related.

T-1 LIFE ON OTHER PLANETS

Answers to the question, "Do you think there are people somewhat like ourselves living on other planets in the universe, or not?" in the Gallup Opinion Index, Report No. 158, Sep 1978, p. 28. Figures in % of responses.

Response	Yes	No	No opinion
Overall response	51	33	16
UFOs are real	72	19	9
UFOs are imaginary	27	62	11

While 51% of the U.S. adult population believes there are people on other planets, this belief climbs to 72% among persons who think UFOs are real and, conversely, falls to 27% among those who think

UFOs are imaginary. Thus belief in SETI and belief in UFOs go together. Similarly, skepticism about one phenomenon is likely to be associated with skepticism about the other.

How important is this relationship between UFO and ETI beliefs? What are its implications for federal funding of SETI? Can these UFO-ETI believers be safely ignored?

No. Further analysis of the survey results suggests that it would be unwise to do so. T-2 indicates that the higher the education, income and occupation, the more likely a person is to believe in the existence of ETI—and of UFOs.

In other words, belief in both of these phenomena is strongest among better informed, higher income people—the very people who would be crucial to public support for SETI.

T-2 SOCIAL LEVEL OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTIONS ON ETI AND UFOs

From the Gallup Opinion Index, Report No. 158, Sep 1978, pp. 28-9. Expressed as percentages.

Class of respondents	People something like us live on other planets.	UFOs are real and not just some one's imagination.
Education		
College	62	66
High school	53	57
Grade school	24	36
Income		
\$20,000 & over	59	65
\$15,000-\$19,999	56	60
\$10,000-\$14,999	55	61
\$7,000-\$9,999	48	51
\$5,000-\$6,999	39	45
\$3,000-\$4,999	37	46
Under \$3,000	34	32
Occupation		
Professional and business	60	65
Clerical and sales	53	61
Manual workers	55	61
Non-labor force	35	38

Thus ETI-UFO believers have the demographic characteristics of politically persuasive citizens. Their high levels of education, income, and occupation place them in the most influential stratum of the population, the people most likely to affect Congress. There are exceptions, but in general, the groups most able to influence federal spending are not the poor and the less educated—who tend to be nonvoters—but rather the people in the upper socioeconomic levels, the "haves" instead of the "have nots."

Why, then, have SETI scientists avoided the UFO question? One reason may be that they feel UFOs have little relevance for their own research or, even if UFOs were worth studying, that it would be difficult to do so with the desired degree of scientific rigor.

A second reason for scientists avoiding UFOs, ESP, and similar topics is that these topics may subject them to unwanted and time-consuming interac-

The high levels of education, income, and occupation place ETI-UFO believers in the most influential stratum of the population.

tion with the public. If it becomes known that a scientist is interested in UFOs he is likely to be contacted by individuals who have seen something, by reporters looking for a story, and by community groups seeking a speaker for a monthly meeting.

A third reason may be that scientists fear they might be tainted by the ludicrous, zany aura surrounding flying saucers. SETI itself has only recently struggled up out of the realm of comic strips and science fiction. While SETI's future looks hopeful, it is not yet securely established in the mainstream of federally funded activity. Like many status-conscious newcomers, from immigrants to the nouveau riche, SETIists do not want to jeopardize their recently acquired scientific respectability by associating with the "wrong" people. SETI, even on its own, has already received a Golden Fleece Award from Senator Proxmire. Why invite further trouble from Congress by involvement with UFOs?

Such caution is understandable, but is it the best approach? Survey results, general interest in occult phenomena, and the tremendous box office success of "Star Wars" and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" suggest that potential for public support of topics like UFOs and SETI does exist. Perhaps this potential could be mobilized if scientists and NASA were willing to relax a bit, to soften their present aversion to the UFO problem.

It would not be necessary to get involved with Big Foot, reincarnation, or the Loch Ness Monster. I think UFOs, as aerial phenomena, do lie within NASA's jurisdiction.

Could a more open policy toward UFOs give NASA an opportunity to educate the public on the difference between UFOs and SETI? Would such a policy bring in more funds, some of which could be devoted to SETI research?

NASA is now in the doldrums, with its main attraction, the Space Shuttle, arousing only mild public enthusiasm. In contrast, interest in UFOs remains high, despite thirty years of government and scientific efforts to debunk them. There is no guarantee that a more flexible approach would benefit SETI, but I see no undue risk and much to gain from NASA taking on the whole mix of questions.

Acknowledgment

I appreciate the helpful comments of Mike Brein, Ben Finney, and Jeff Smith on this article.



DAVID W. SWIFT, professor of sociology at the Univ. of Hawaii, received a Ph.D. from UC-Berkeley. He has published books and articles on educational systems. While in high school he was commissioned by Airbooks to paint a series of historically accurate illustrations of famous WW I aviation incidents, and in the Air Force at the end of WW II he was stationed at Wright Field working on captured plans for German rockets. Now a contributing editor to *Cosmic Search*, Swift is studying scientists who search for extraterrestrial intelligence. He has organized transpacific conferences on such topics as scientists' responses to new telecommunications.

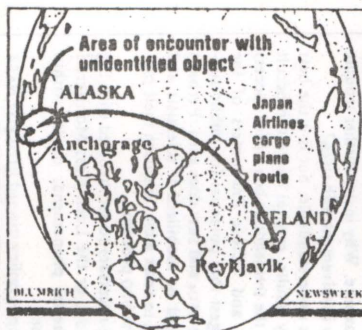
747 J.A.L. / ALASKA UFO CHASE.

Strange Encounter Over Alaska

Was an FAA-confirmed sighting really a UFO?

It was big—bigger than anything known to fly, according to an experienced pilot who watched it from as little as eight miles off. It was fast—fast enough to keep pace with a 747 jet for half an hour as it flew over the empty Alaska wilderness. It was flanked by two smaller objects that maneuvered with it; together the three objects flashed a brilliant pattern of yellow, amber and green lights. And—if this sounds awfully familiar to connoisseurs of UFO tales—there is one thing that set this particular apparition apart: it may have shown up on radar.

Although the Federal Aviation Administration confirmed last week that some sort of sighting did take place aboard Japan Air Lines Flight 1628, much of what happened remains a mystery. The incident began on the evening of Nov. 17, with veteran pilot Kenju Terauchi, 47, at the controls of the JAL cargo plane, which was en route to Anchorage from Reykjavik, Iceland, the middle leg of a Europe-to-Tokyo flight. The weather was clear as the jet crossed the Beaufort Sea off Alaska's north coast. Suddenly Terauchi and his two fellow crew-



men spotted flashing lights moving alongside them—about eight miles off, at the plane's altitude of 35,000 feet. Terauchi radioed FAA controllers and received permission to descend to 31,000 feet. After a minute the controllers asked if the lights were still there. "It is descending in formation," the pilot replied.

Terauchi said he glimpsed the full craft only once, in profile. "It was a very big one—two times bigger than an aircraft carrier," he reported. He sketched it as walnut-shaped, with a wide flat rim and bulges above and below. According to FAA spokesman Paul Steucke of the Anchorage regional office, Terauchi located the object

with his own on-board weather radar. Both Air Force and civilian flight controllers reported briefly seeing echoes of what might have been another craft nearby the JAL flight. But when radar tapes covering the period were replayed by FAA investigators, Steucke says, the reported echoes could not be found. The Air Force, he added, is now attributing the supposed radar sightings to "clutter."

A mystery: Approaching Fairbanks, Terauchi steered his plane in a 360-degree circle, but the object stayed with him, finally disappearing as the 747 approached Anchorage. FAA officials interviewed the crew on the ground and found them, in Steucke's words, "professional, rational, well-trained people." The FAA confirmed the incident after inquiries from Japanese reporters, who heard about it from a relative of one of the crewmen. But it has closed its inquiry into the sighting. "It's a mystery," Steucke concedes, "but, really, we have nothing here to investigate. The controller saw what he saw. . . . As far as what it could be, on the extreme side it could have been the proverbial unknown object, or possibly military aircraft from the United States, Canada or some foreign country." As for Terauchi, he told a UPI reporter that he believes the object he saw over the Alaskan sky that night must have come from another planet with a civilization far more advanced than ours. Only that can explain, he says lightly, their interest in his cargo cases of French Beaujolais wine.

12.1.87, NEWSWEEK **A**

NASA worker tracks UFO reports by pilots

By HAL BERNTON
Daily News business reporter

The mysterious flashing lights sighted by the crew of a Japan Air Lines cargo jet last November aren't the only strange things pilots have seen through their cockpit windows.

In the past 20 years, more than 3,000 sightings of UFOs have been reported by pilots, according to Richard Haines, a NASA scientist who tracks UFO sightings by pilots in his spare time.

"Some of them are very spectacular and very significant from the standpoint of getting a better idea on how to characterize the phenomena," said Haines.

He said the sightings are reported by military, civilian and commercial pilots who fly both national and international routes. UFO reports from Alaska pilots are relatively rare.

The sightings tend to occur in cycles that peak about every five years, Haines said. For the past two years, sightings have been in a trough.

Haines said many of the reports fall into two main categories.

One category involves UFOs that suddenly appear within view of the cockpit and then disappear very rapidly. "The airplane is flying along essentially minding its own business. Then something comes up and does barrel rolls around the airplane."

Many other reports, including the Nov. 17 sighting by the JAL crew, involve UFOs that tail aircraft for periods ranging from a minute to more than two hours.

Haines' interest in UFOs results from his more than two decades spent working in NASA's man-in-space program. In the early 1960s, as he began studying visual optics in space, he encountered many reports from pilots who claimed to have seen UFOs.

"I thought I could explain all these strange phenomena as nothing more than strange lighting," said Haines, who now studies "human factors in space" at NASA's Ames Research Center in Mountain View, Calif.

"But I had to look at the data as an open-minded scientist and pretty soon realized that we are facing something totally different."

NASA currently doesn't investigate any UFO sightings. But Haines, working out of his Los Altos, Calif., home on his own time, has clipped newspapers, interviewed pilots and talked with controllers to amass reports of more than 3,000 sightings.

Haines said he hopes to fly to Anchorage to investigate the Nov. 17 sighting by Capt. Kenju Terauchi, pilot of a JAL cargo plane en route from Iceland to an Anchorage refueling stop. The report was made public in late December.

Terauchi, a 47-year-old pilot with 20 years of experience, told United Press International that two small brightly lit objects and one enormous object—the size of two aircraft carriers—followed his jumbo jet for 400 miles.

Terauchi first sighted the lights shortly after the plane entered Alaska airspace. At first, the lights were directly

in front of the plane, and Terauchi feared a midair collision, said Paul Steucke, Alaska spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration. Terauchi then obtained permission from an air traffic controller to try and evade the UFOs with several turns and drops in altitude. He finally lost the UFOs about 80 miles northwest of Anchorage, according to Steucke.

The FAA controller who monitored the JAL plane, Flight 1628, reported tracking the UFOs several times on radar, as near as five miles from the aircraft. "The traffic (UFO) stayed with JAL1628 through turns and descents," said the controller in a statement released by the FAA. The identity of the controller, however, has not been released.

The Military Regional Operations Control Center reported picking up the UFO on radar about eight miles from the plane. The military center then lost track of the UFO for 11 minutes, then picked up "a flight of two," according to a flight chronology released by the FAA. It picked up the UFOs as they dropped back and to the right of the plane, then lost radar contact.

More recently, Steucke has said that neither the military nor the FAA puts any faith in the early radar sightings. Steucke said that the FAA controller mistakenly interpreted a split-image of the cargo plane as a UFO and that the military now reports its radar images were simply "clutter."

THE UFOs THAT CHASED JET

THESE are the first drawings of the giant "UFO" the crew of a Japanese jumbo jet claimed to have seen shadowing their aircraft over Alaska.

JAL pilot Kenju Terauchi made the sketches from notes he took as the globe-shaped "mothership" and two smaller objects trailed the 747 cargo jet for 650 km.

Both US Federal Aviation Administration and Air Force officials have confirmed that ground radar operators also saw a mystery object on November 17.

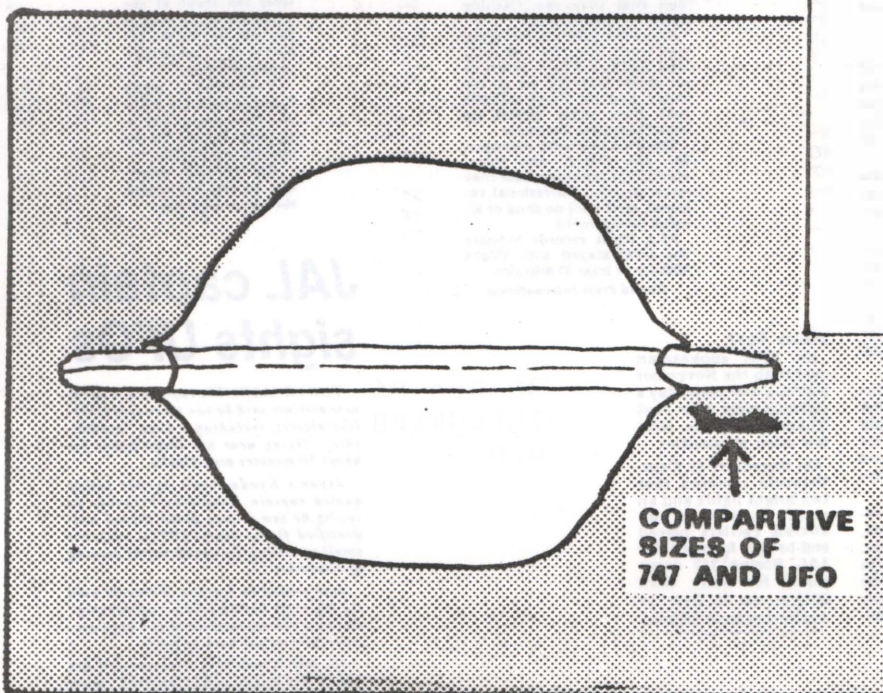
Terauchi claimed the "mothership" looked to be as big as two aircraft carriers.

"It was unbelievable," he told reporters in London. But his fellow crew also said they saw the objects, which were in view for 50 minutes.

The drawings made by Terauchi show:

● The smaller spacecraft-like objects as seen through the windscreen of the 747.

They each appeared as dual arrays of multiple lights, separated by a darker area.



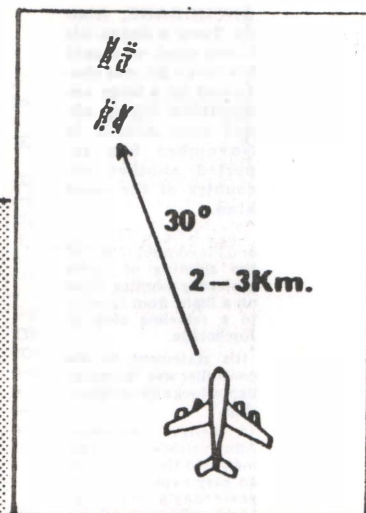
● A JAL jumbo ... captain saw UFOs

● The second drawing shows the position of the lights relative to the 747. Terauchi estimated they were about 2-3 km distant.

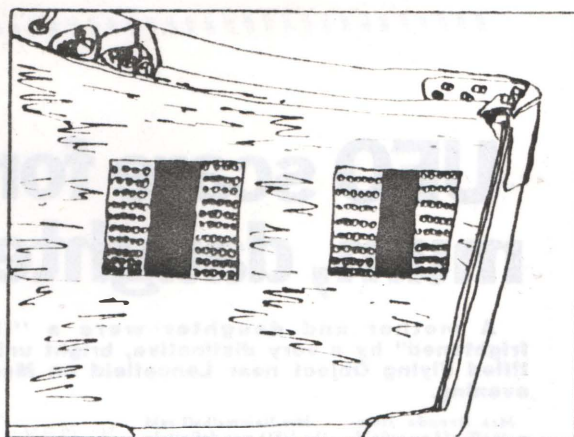
● The third drawing

shows the "mothership".

At one stage in their flight, Terauchi turned the 747 through a 360 degree turn to see if the UFOs would disappear. They followed.



● Above: The angle and distance of the two brilliant objects seen by the captain.
● Left: The giant mothership.
● Below: The captain's sketch of his view of the UFOs through the plane's windscreen



5.1.87 SUN, VIC A

The Houston Post/Tues., December 30, 1986/ 11C

UFO followed them, jet crew says

Object reportedly flew 'in formation' with JAL plane

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (UPI) — The crew of a Japan Air Lines cargo jet claimed that a mysterious UFO with flashing white and yellow strobe lights followed them across the Arctic Circle en route from Reykjavik, Iceland, to Tokyo.

The three-man crew radioed air traffic controllers in Anchorage, reporting the huge UFO flying "in formation" with them, and the Air Force confirmed an object briefly flew near the plane, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Paul Steucke said Monday.

But, although the Air Force radar briefly picked up a second object, Steucke said, FAA controllers in Anchorage and Fairbanks did not.

The strange sight reported by the pilot, copilot and flight engineer of JAL Flight 1628 remains a mystery.

The incident occurred Nov. 17 but was not made public until a news reporter queried the FAA.

Flight 1628 had left Reykjavik, flying over the North Pole to Tokyo with a stop in Anchorage. After the UFO sighting, it landed at Anchorage International Airport, and FAA security manager Jim Derry interviewed all three crewmen.

According to the FAA account, lights appeared only a mile from the plane as it crossed the Arctic Circle about 30 miles southeast of the town of Fort Yukon.

"They said they could not see the shape, only the lights," Steucke said of the crew's account. "The lights indicated to them it may be a large aircraft or a large something."

The white and yellow strobe lights followed the Boeing 747 for

50 miles. The crew estimated they were 7 miles away. The lighting was not normal aircraft-marking pattern, the crew reported.

When the report was made to the Air Route Traffic Control Center at 6:19 p.m., Steucke said controllers tried to locate the object on radar but "were unable to confirm a second target with our equipment. Our radar system picked up one target."

In other words, FAA controllers located only the JAL jumbo jet.

At 6:26 p.m., Steucke said the FAA contacted the Military Regional Operations Control Center at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, and "we asked them if they were receiving any radar returns."

The Air Force told the FAA it "saw a second target (object) 8 miles away (from the JAL jet), but they contacted us a minute later and said they were no longer receiving any radar return (of a second object)," Steucke said.

"At 6:32 the JAL pilot requested and received permission for a descent from 35,000 feet to 31,000," Steucke said. Air controllers asked if the lights were still there, and were told, "It is descending in formation."

Four minutes later, the JAL plane received permission for a 360-degree turn. Then, at 6:39 p.m. — 20 minutes after the lights were first reported — the JAL crewmen said they no longer saw the lights.

At 6:45 p.m., Fairbanks controllers authorized a United Airlines northbound jet to make a 10-degree turn to better view the JAL plane and asked the United crew if it saw anything besides the Boeing 747. It did not. Nor did the JAL crew see the lights again.

JOHN F. SCHUESSLER

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HOUSTON, TEXAS 77255-2485

Pilot sees new UFO

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, Tues: A Japan Air Lines pilot who said his cargo jet was shadowed by a huge unidentified flying object over Alaska in November has reported another encounter of the eerie kind.

Capt. Kenju Terauchi and his co-pilot reported the sighting of lights yesterday morning while on a flight from London to a refuelling stop in Anchorage.

His statement to the controller was "irregular lights, looks like a spaceship."

A Federal Aviation Administration spokesman said there could be an easy explanation for yesterday's sighting: Light reflecting off ice crystals in the atmosphere.

Capt. Terauchi, a veteran pilot, told the FAA that he saw the lights twice yesterday, once for about 20 minutes and again for about 10 minutes.

The plane's co pilot reported seeing the lights, but the flight engineer, who sits farther back in the cockpit, indicated he was uncertain whether he saw any lights at all.

Cargo plane 'trailed' by three UFOs

ANCHORAGE: A veteran pilot says three unidentified flying objects - two small and one twice the size of an aircraft carrier - trailed his Japan Air Lines cargo jet for 650km across the Arctic skies.

"It was unbelievable," said pilot Mr Kenju Terauchi, acknowledging that some of his colleagues had doubts about what he and his crew saw on November 17 as they flew across north-eastern Alaska from Iceland to Anchorage.

The crewmen of JAL Flight 1628 told officials from the Federal Aviation Administration that they saw flashing lights trailing their jet.

And FAA officials yesterday confirmed that the controller who handled Flight 1628 saw an object trail the jet on his radar, and Air Force officials said their radar picked up something near the plane.

The FAA's security manager, Mr Jim Derry, who interviewed the crewmen, said they were "normal, professional, rational, (and had) no drug or alcohol involvement".

FAA flight records indicate the UFO stayed with Flight 1628 for at least 73 minutes.

United Press International

Captain spots another UFO

FOR the second time in two months a pilot has reported seeing a giant UFO "following" his aircraft.

Japan Airlines captain Kenju Terauchi said he saw a "spaceship" over Alaska yesterday.

Its lights approached from the front of the plane and reappeared to the rear, he told the US Federal Aviation Administration.

Terauchi also reported seeing a UFO on November 17, a sighting backed up by the US Air Force.

But officials speculate ice crystals caused the latest sighting.

Airliner captain in UFO scare

TOKYO The captain of a Japanese airliner said he saw three spaceship-like objects, including a huge "mother ship", flying near his cargo plane for about 30 minutes over Alaska.

Japan's Kyodo News Agency today quoted Captain Kanetoshi Terauchi as saying he saw a huge globe-shaped unidentified flying object with two small spaceship-like craft on the evening of November 17.

'Windows'

Interviewed in London, Captain Terauchi said the big craft looked like a "mother ship" and gave the appearance of two huge aircraft carriers put back-to-back.

He told the news agency they accompanied his Japan Air Lines special cargo flight from Paris to Tokyo for about 760 km. In Tokyo, a JAL spokesman quoted Captain Terauchi's flight engineer, Yoshio Tsukuda, as saying he saw unusual light during the flight including "two lines of lights which looked like aeroplane cabin windows".

The spokesman said Captain Terauchi was not available for comment.

JAL captain sights UFOs

TOKYO (AAP): The captain of a Japanese airliner said he saw three spaceship-like objects, including a huge "mother ship", flying near his cargo plane for about 50 minutes over Alaska.

Japan's Kyodo News Agency today quoted captain Kanetoshi Terauchi as saying he saw a huge globe-shaped unidentified flying object (UFO) with two small spaceship-like craft on the evening of November 17.

Interviewed in London, Terauchi said the big craft looked like a "mother ship" and gave the appearance of two huge aircraft carriers put back to back.

He told Kyodo they accompanied his Japan Air Lines (JAL) special cargo flight 1628 from Paris to Tokyo for about 50 minutes or a distance of 760km.

UFO scare for mum, daughter

A mother and daughter were a "little frightened" by a very distinctive, bright unidentified Flying Object near Lancefield on Monday evening.

Mrs Brenda Hammelhoff, of Lancefield, was returning from Romsey with her daughter, O'dette, at about 8.10 pm, when the incident occurred.

Mrs Hammelhoff said an exceptionally bright light was noticed near Boundary Road.

"It was very bright, circular, and almost irresistible. We just kept looking at it," she said.

Mrs Hammelhoff said the experience was quite frightening.

As they turned into Graham Road, Mrs Hammelhoff and O'dette noticed the light change completely into an arrow shape, emitting yellow and green light.

She said the color was very intense. "It then took off at a steady, fast speed."

"I turned off the car and wound down the window - there was hardly any noise, just a dull hum as the light sped away."

"There was a red light at the rear," she said.

Mrs Hammelhoff said the UFO was definitely not a helicopter.

About eight years ago during a widely-publicised sighting in Bendigo, Mrs Hammelhoff said she saw a light exactly the same as the one first noticed on Monday evening.

She said she has since heard of a Romsey man who had a similar sighting a few nights earlier.

SIMILAR DESCRIPTION

The UFO Research Centre in Melbourne said there had been no other reports from the area on Monday evening, but a spokesman said Mrs Hammelhoff's description matched descriptions which arose from a spate of sightings in the Bamawm area of northern Victoria several years ago.

Anyone in the Lancefield area who saw similar lights to those described by Mrs Hammelhoff can contact the UFO Research Centre in Pascoe Vale Road, Essendon.

WAS IT A UFO?

Leongatha resident, Mr. Paul Carter, is intrigued by a light he saw in the sky last Wednesday night, wondering if it might have been an Unidentified Flying Object.

Mr. Carter, who lives in Ritchie Street, said the light defied all the laws of physics and moved very erratically during the 40 minutes he watched it.

"I'm not UFO-minded and I've never seen one before," he said the next day, "but there was no explanation for it."

Mr. Carter, who teaches English at Leongatha High School, said he had been looking

at an evening class and was farawelling a student.

His and the student watched the light "wobble" in the sky over Galah Hardware.

"It was a yellow/orange color and at first we thought it was a plane but it moved too erratically," said Mr. Carter.

His student went home and Mr. Carter continued to watch as the light rose in the sky, changing to white.

"It seemed to lift and reflect light like the reflection off metal," he explained.

Mr. Carter said the object flashed twice in that manner before travelling over Leongatha in the eastern sky.

Fascinated, he roused a neighbor who is a science teacher and together, they drove but it moved too erratically," said Mr. Carter.

It was fairly low in the sky. Then we saw a shooting star and the object was gone.

"It could have been the shooting star but its movement changed so much. The object rose and fell, remained motionless and moved quickly."

"There was no obvious explanation and that is what intrigues me."

9 May 86 GUARDIAN, VIC



PHIL KLOSS NIGHTMARE

*FROM: DR WILLY SMITH, LONGWOOD, FL, USA

19 AUG
1987
STAR
LEONGATHA
VIC

BOOKS

SCIENCE AND THE UFOS,
Jenny Randles and
Peter Warrington
(Blackwell, Oxford; \$34.95)

Does the world really need another book about UFOs?

I must admit that I didn't really think so, and the prospect of reading *Science and the UFOs* was more dismal than rosy.

I put this down to an early disillusionment of my adolescence. My grandmother gave me what must have been one of the first books of UFOs full of very convincing photographs of flying saucers.

Imagine the let-down when some observant sceptic found, in a Soho restaurant, the very lightshades that had been used as fake flying metallic discs in those terribly persuasive photographs.

Despite this traumatic experience I have persisted in the belief that the orthodox is generally less interesting than the unorthodox, and that more is to be learnt by challenging the majority view than by simply accepting it.

In the cautious spirit of championing the underdog that had already bitten me once, I set out to see if anything has been learnt about flying saucers in the last 30 years.

The problem for UFO advocates is that nothing really startling has been established in that time.

There have been claims about encounters with visitors from space, numerous sightings of strange fast moving objects by trained pilots, and weird failures of vehicle electrical systems in the presence of bright lights on country roads.

But it all seems a little ho hum for a public exposed to a diet of ET and Close Encounters of the Third Kind.

Hollywood has raised the threshold for interest in the weird and the extraterrestrial beyond all reasonable limits.

At the same time, establishment science has shown little sign of accepting the reality of UFOs beyond the occasional official report.

All too often the substance of these reports

UFOs: Examining a rational middle ground

gets lost in changes of cover-up by government and defence establishments.

A similar blurring affect is achieved in the public mind by the association of UFOs with cranks, millenarian sects, astral travelling and general ratbagery.

A serious treatment of the topic has an uphill battle to throw off all these negative aspects, but *Science and the UFOs*, does its earnest best.

The underlying thesis of the book is that between the two extremes of the total sceptic and the committed believer lies some middle ground — ground that offers much of interest for a wide range of scientific disciplines.

In order to establish that there is indeed a set of phenomena worthy of investigation the authors avoid the trap of claiming some especially interesting sighting or a personal experience with an extraterrestrial.

Instead, they take the prosaic path of going through the history of UFO investigation, the salient fact that emerges is that around 25% of sightings in all official reports are not attributable to identifiable events like weather balloons, rocket launches, weapon testing, street light, venus rising, the moon or whatever.

Thus the author claims that there is a real set of phenomena to be investigated. They prefer to call them UAP, unidentified atmospheric phenomena, and rate the likelihood of them being extraterrestrial as highly unlikely, though not impossible in principle.

They distinguish these objects though unidentified phenomena from the subjective but nonetheless interesting phenomena of having a UFO experience.

In the first case the subject of interest is the nature of the aerial phenomena, in the second case the subject of interest is the set of mechanisms that led to the reconstruction of a misidentified familiar object as a UFO.

After some interesting discussion of particular sightings Randles and Warrington get to the most important part of the book, a consideration of what can be done.

They examine in some detail the problems involved with observing, reporting and analysing aerial phenomena. Trying to think of my own experience, I came up with some fairly typical examples.

In Southern France while driving through some mountains in a fierce thunderstorm, I saw a large glowing ball move right across the sky in the very far distance.

It is now slowly being accepted that there is an electric phenomena hitherto denied by science — ball lightning.

This maybe related to fireballs, another similar phenomena, an example of which was reported to me by a friend in Perth.

After an electrical storm he saw a small blue ball form on the overhead powerline and then fall off setting fire to the grass as it bounced on the ground before disappearing.

While driving on a freeway late at night in Canada I thought I saw a car reversing into my path from the shoulder of the road, after I brought my car to a screeching halt there was nothing to be seen.

Or again you may have noticed that the lights on the Westgate bridge look as if they form a circle when viewed from a certain angle?

The challenge is to devise ways of making sense out of this plethora of problems

concerning the reliability of secondhand reports, illusions due to fatigue and real but scientifically unexplained meteorological events.

The strength of the book lies in the salient advice offered for handling these issues.

If you are not persuaded that it is an interesting challenge, perhaps it would be as well to recall the case of meteorites.

Up till the 18th century the scientific community dismissed accounts of rocks falling from the sky as superstitious peasant nonsense.

The French Academy of Science officially declared them to be impossible.

The recognition of meteorites only took place when the scientific experts, formulated their own agreement on three issues, how to evaluate the reports, the theory to explain them, and unimpeachable eyewitness testimony of their occurrence.

In other words, the real issue is the control of the boundary between science and the rest of society, especially when it comes to observations that arise outside the scientific community.

It is in the awkward area of this contested boundary that amateurs can make significant contributions if they are sufficiently painstaking, cautious and consistent in their observations.

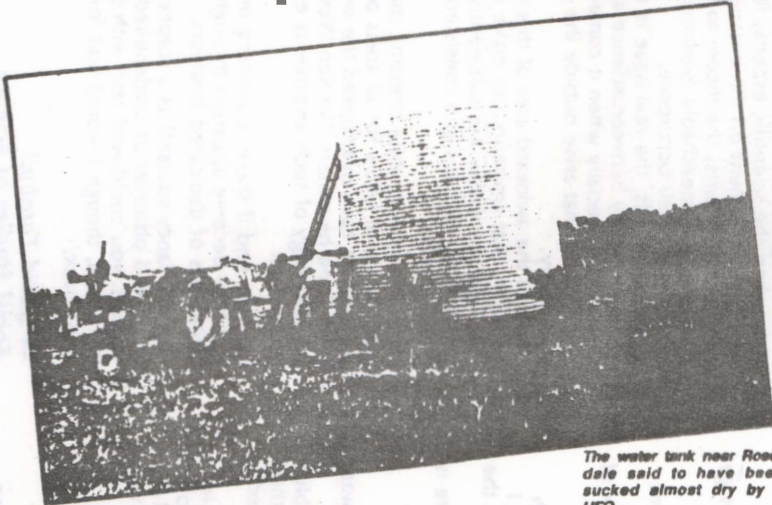
It is a pity that while stressing the significance of UFOs for all areas of science, the authors have overlooked the work that has been done by writers like Ron Westrum on the sociology of such anomalous events as meteorites.

In the end if there is anything in UFOs it will only become apparent through the endeavors of dedicated amateurs.

If you fancy yourself as a sceptical but interested observer of unidentified flying objects, you could well start with *Science and the UFOs*, though I would wait for the paperback.

— David Turnbull
Social Studies of Science
Deakin University

'Our theory is that they come from outer space or another dimension'



The water tank near Rosedale said to have been sucked almost dry by a UFO.



UFO Research Society members inspect burn rings thought to be a UFO landing site.

UFO buffs probe the outer limits

A FUNNY thing happened on a farm in Gippsland six years ago...

It was evening time and the silence was broken by what sounded like the roar of an engine.

The manager of White Acres, a property near Rosedale, looked out the door of his farmhouse and saw some lights far away in a paddock.

He got on a motorbike and rode out to investigate, thinking a plane may have made a forced landing.

The lights were near a concrete water tank but when the farmer got nearer he did not find an aeroplane.

Instead, he says, there was a bell-shaped object which took off and flew away as he approached. The 45,000 litre water tank, which had been full when inspected two days earlier, was nearly empty.

This is one of hundreds of cases investigated by Pat Gildea of the Victorian UFO Research Society.

Mr Gildea says he does not know exactly what it was that landed in that paddock on September 30, 1980. But he is convinced the farmer was telling the truth.

"He was that close he felt the blast of heat as it took off," Mr Gildea said last week.

"He got a big fright. This is how you can tell whether people are faking or not. When you go to interview them you can tell by the way they act and talk that they still haven't come down to earth."

Mr Gildea produced pictures which show a circular burn mark on the ground near the water tank. He says this is where the UFO landed.

By

Tony Wells

He says that when he inspected the site he found that the concrete tank was cracked and had chip marks on one side.

UFO activity has been linked with the disappearance of water in several cases investigated by the society. Mr Gildea says he does not know enough to offer an explanation for this.

The society, formed in the 1950s, has about 400 members, including the father of missing Melbourne pilot Frederick Valentich.

Valentich disappeared on October 21, 1978, while flying over Bass Strait.

According to tapes of his final conversation with flight control, Valentich reported some kind of object flying nearby.

He was about to describe the object when he was cut off. Valentich was never heard from again and a large-scale search failed to find any trace of his plane.

The society says Valentich is the 20th person in 32 years whose disappearance has been linked with UFO activity. The others have been overseas.

Not all cases in the society's files are so dramatic.

Mr Gildea says the society can come up with a reasonable explanation for most UFO sightings. Helicopters, sun reflecting off the planet Venus and weather balloons are the more common causes of alarm.

Then there are the hoaxes where people try to fake pictures of flying saucers with garbage bin lids and Frisbees.

Many of the cases are referred to the society by the RAAF which no longer officially investigates UFO activity.

Mr Gildea says he is convinced that some of the objects sighted are not made by man.

"They seem to have overcome the law of inertia which we haven't," he says. "They've been clocked on radar at a few thousand kilometres an hour, and all of a sudden they do a right angle turn."

"Our theory is that they come from outer space or another dimension."

Who or what pilots these speed machines is not known.

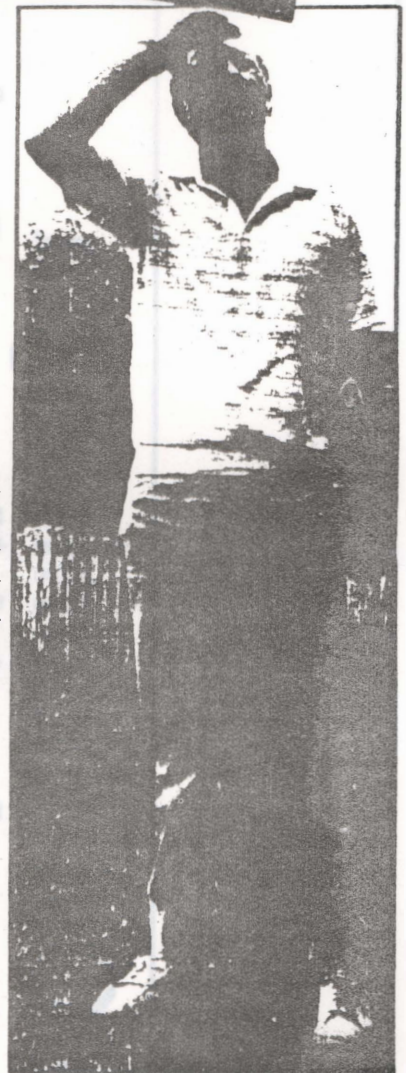
But Mr Gildea referred to documents about UFO sightings released in the United States under freedom of information legislation.

One, dated March 22, 1950, is a memo to the director of the FBI.

The memo says in part: "An investigator for the Air Forces stated that three so-called flying saucers had been recovered in New Mexico. They were described as being circular in shape with raised centers, approximately 50 feet in diameter."

"Each one was occupied by three bodies of human shape but only 3 feet tall, dressed in metallic cloth of a very fine texture. Each body was banded in a manner similar to the black-out suits used by speed flyers..."

According to UFO watchers, the "aliens" were taken into custody. The U.S. Government has always denied such a story.

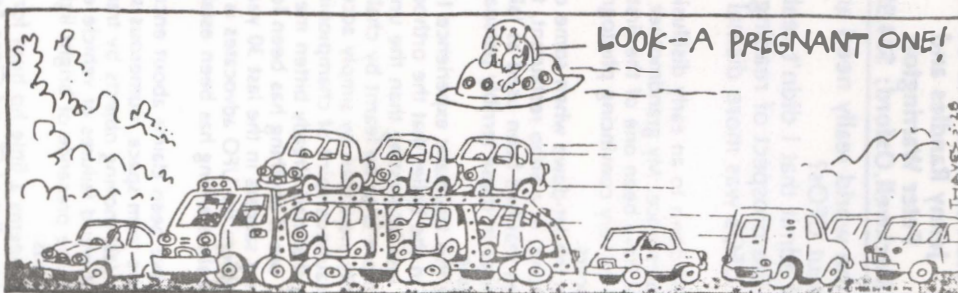


Pat Gildea of the Victorian UFO Research Society ... reasonable explanation for most sightings.

28.12.87 SUNDAY OBSERVER, VIC ▲

Frank and Ernest

by Bob Thaves

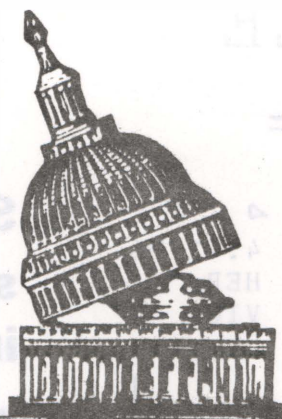


JUST

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NEW SERIES

December 1986

MORE AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE RELEASES

Thanks to Robert Todd's continuing efforts in obtaining Air Force Intelligence UFO files, we now have additional data on the early years of UFOlogy. A 262-page file was released, of which 110 pages have proven to be useful. Notable categories of information include "Foo-Fighter" reports, the Swedish "Ghost Rocket" incidents of 1946 and a so-called "crash of Unidentified Flaming Object."

The Foo-Fighter file consists of two letters to A.F. Intelligence from private citizens sent in July 1947 (see CAUS Bulletin for one of the reproduced letters). The other letter, from a former S/Sgt. in the Army Air Force, advises Intelligence that Foo-Fighter reports appeared in two publications - one called "A.A.F.G.I.B" (published by AAFIS) and "Weekly Intelligence Summaries" (also by AAFIS). This may be of some help to us in locating comprehensive data on Foo-Fighter reports.

A portion of a Mexican crashed-object report in Intelligence files is also reproduced in the current CAUS Bulletin. The rest of the file does not add a great deal of additional information to this document.

The Swedish Ghost Rocket file contains rather significant information to the effect that a "comprehensive file" of the incidents existed at Air Force Intelligence HQ in Washington. 44 documents were listed in a 2/12/48 memo from Washington to the Air Materiel Command at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, listed by reference number only and supposedly a compilation of actual sightings. Mysteriously enough, none of the 44 documents can now be located at the National Archives. How the reports became separated from their files folders was not explained.

One curiosity in the Intelligence releases of this past year is the amazing lack of hard documentation in certain file sections; i.e. data referred to in released documents which are clearly important to the file but which always seem to be lost! We have a large collection of label sheets, administrative memos, cover letters; etc., but to borrow a phrase from Clara Peller, "Where's the beef?" Where is this missing batch of files? Is it policy to routinely destroy the most important part of a file on UFO incidents and keep a label sheet? We don't believe this of course. We know the reports exist. We know that FOIA officials know they exist. But they also know that we lack the public and financial pressure to pursue these issues very far.

UFO skeptics have said that the so-called "smoking gun" of UFO proof has not yet appeared because it does not exist! We have ample evidence showing that a large chunk of UFO files from many different agencies have not been released and probable won't be released in our lifetime. Maybe we will be lucky and see some of these reports someday. We have had surprises in the past, as has been reported in our publications. We also know that only the tiniest percentage of documentation classified "Top Secret" has been released on UFOs. The skeptics would not have made the effort to find the AIDS 203 report from A.F. Intelligence, nor would they have pursued the NSA affidavit used in the CAUS vs NSA suit. CAUS members made this effort and as a result found compelling evidence for a cover-up from these formerly-Top Secret documents.

We are slowly understanding the history of government UFO involvement from these releases. It is simply a pity that this does not get wider coverage in the media. We will continue to record the events as they become known.

NOTE: OUR THANKS TO LAWRENCE FAWCETT AND BARRY GREENWOOD FOR THIS ARTICLE.

WE RECOMMEND THAT ALL MEMBERS OF OUR SOCIETY TAKE OUT A SUBSCRIPTION WITH "JUST CAUSE", THIS PUBLICATION IS ON THE CUTTING EDGE OF UFOLOGY AND OF THE GREATEST QUALITY.

UNIQUE FILE

WORLD UFO

12F /The Houston Post.

/Thurs., December 18, 1986

Paraders of the lost Ark decide on site

NASHVILLE, Tennessee, 3 Dec. — A Turkish official says a group of Turkish researchers have decided that a boat-shaped formation found in 1977 on a hill in eastern Turkey is the remains of Noah's Ark.

Ark-hunter Mr Ron Wyatt, of Nashville, who returned from Turkey last week after talks with officials about excavating the find, said they had used his photograph while reaching their decision.

"They called me and said they had decided that was the remains of Noah's Ark, partly based on my research," he said.

The Turkish Tourism Consul in New York, Kamil Muren, said a report by the Ataturk University researchers recommended that the area, 22 kilometres south of Mount Ararat, be made a national park.

"The Department of Ministry and Tourism has been ready to make the area a national park and declare that as Noah's Ark, based on the evidence presented by various researchers," he said.

However, a Turkish geologist, Yilmaz Guner, said earlier this year that the formation could be the result of thousands of years of erosion.

A Turkish government liaison officer, Ms Mine Uneler, said that government officials would meet on 12 December to discuss the report.

Ms Uneler said the government had agreed with Mr Wyatt about the find near the Turkey-Iran border.

— AP

4
4.12.86
HER
VIC

Several report spotting UFO in Mexico City

MEXICO CITY (Reuter) — Mexico City International Airport received dozens of calls reporting an unidentified flying object over the capital Tuesday, the official Notimex News Agency reported Wednesday.

The multi-colored object was making a faint buzzing noise as it rapidly circled the city before shooting off at high speed, witnesses said.

There was no word on the object's shape or on how long it was visible.

Notimex said the crew of a Pan American Airways jet also reported having seen the object briefly.

The agency said an unidentified flying object was seen at the same time and place on Nov. 2, 1973.

VUFORS WORK On Radio

26.1.87
AGE
VIC

SIGHTINGS And Suspensions (3RRR-FM, Monday, 12.15pm) argues that either UFO sightings are very peculiar or the many varied people who report them are simply lying. Co-producers of the program, Glen Harner and Ann James, will talk to media personality Kevin Arnett, internationally known UFO investigator Paul Norman, Victorian UFO Research Society committee member John Auchattle and Air New Zealand pilot and controversial UFO author Bruce Cathie. Not neglecting opposition to the theory of UFO, they include on the program the Australian Sceptics.

Police search ranges for traces of 'explosive' UFO

22.12.87
SUN
VIC

A UFO which residents claim caused a large explosion and earth tremors in central Victoria on Friday night, has still not been found.

Witnesses said the object, believed to be the remains of a meteor, plunged into the Strathbogie Ranges about

120 km north of Melbourne at 8.30 pm.

Police said none of those people who heard, saw or felt the impact of the object could say where it finally landed.

A spokesman said police searched the ranges yesterday but failed to locate anything

Mr Wilfred Fink, of Merton, about 30 km south of Euroa, said he saw a light and then heard an enormous explosion.

"I saw a fireball in the sky and then we heard this terrible bang," he said.

Mr Fink, who has lived in Merton all of his 79 years, said

he had never seen anything like it before.

"It was like an electric light bulb lighting up before it exploded."

An air traffic controller at Tullamarine reported seeing what he thought was a meteorite heading towards the Strathbogie Ranges.

UFO riddle: was it a meteorite?

26 May 86
COURIER
BALLARAT
VIC

A Delacombe man may have seen the mystery object that streaked across south western Victoria on Saturday.

The man said he saw a "fireball" shooting over the Smythes Creek area about 12.30 pm on Saturday.

He said he was driving along Wiltshire Lane, Delacombe, when he saw the object.

He would not give his name when he called The Courier at 12.40 pm to ask if any other people had seen the object.

"I saw it just above the horizon and it was quite clear. It may have been a meteorite," he said.

The man said the unidentified flying object disappeared into clouds and he thought it fell near Symthesdale.

He said it was difficult to say how high and fast the object was travelling.

RAAF officials in Adelaide said they

would investigate reports that the UFO crashed into the sea near Victor Harbor, about 70 km south of Adelaide on Saturday.

The object was unofficially logged as a meteorite by the RAAF at the Edinburgh Base, north of Adelaide.

The object was seen by dozens of people throughout the State's south-east, from as far apart as Kingston, Mt Gambler and parts of western Victoria.

One witness, Thornleigh farmer Neil Sutherland, told local police that the object looked like a rocket, with a propeller-like device at the rear, fins and a fair bit of red paint.

Mr Sutherland described the fast-moving tube-shaped object as "much bigger than a family car".

Beachport resident Gary Chambers said he had seen the object for only a few seconds as it came down.

"It looked like a falling star, but in broad daylight," Mr Chambers said.

"It was very high up. I thought it burned up above the horizon."

Defence Department spokesman Major Andy Reynolds said the RAAF would investigate the reports, as they did with every UFO sighting.

"The RAAF will have to do a lot of leg work by the looks of things, going by the number of sourced and un-sourced comments on the matter," Major Reynolds said.

"But it all seems extremely loose at the moment."

"Air Force investigators will talk to everyone who reported seeing the object, and the whole thing will go ahead from there."

Major Reynolds said he did not know when the investigation would start.